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ABSTRACT

The document points out the merits of scouting as a recreational program for the handicapped, and considers the YMCA's (Young Men's Christian Association's) Project MAY (Mainstreaming Activities for Youth) and the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) Scouting for the Handicapped program. Dimensions of scouting seen as beneficial for the handicapped include its career education and recreation education dimensions. It is explained that Project MAY is a 3-year project to assist national youth serving agencies in planning, developing, implementing, promoting, and evaluating a cooperative/coordinated training program aimed at mainstreaming handicapped youth into regular youth programs. Sections also address the BSA program, the National Resource Handbook on Scouting for Handicapped Children, the National Institute on Special Recreation, and recent developments in special recreation (such as the inclusion of therapeutic recreation in services that can be provided if written into the individualized educational plan). (SBH)

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SPECIAL RECREATION -- BRIDGE TO MAINSTREAMING

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Presented at the First National Conference on Scouting for the Hearing Impaired

Theme: "Scouting for the Handicapped: Gateway to Total Involvement in the American Mainstream"

Sponsored by: Gallaudet College
National Advisory Committee on Scouting for the Handicapped of the Boy Scouts of America
Office of Handicapped Individuals of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare
U.S. President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped

Held: August 5-7, 1979 at Model Secondary School for the Deaf
Gallaudet College, 7th and Florida Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Recreation as a Basic Element in American Life

Recreation is a basic element in American life. Americans spend $200 billion annually on recreation. One dollar in eight is spent by the American family for recreation. Americans devote four hours a day to recreation. One quarter and more of the use of the American car is for recreation use. Thus, one-fourth of all costs related to American automobiles must be ascribed to recreation. For Americans the question is not one of recreation or no recreation, but which recreation.

The Roles of Recreation

Recreation is pervasive in the life of every individual. For children, recreation is called play and performs a wide range of functions in normal growth and development. For youth and adults, recreation fulfills the "four-R's"--Recovery from the rigors of

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ducation and work; Relaxation; Reward for performance in school and on the job; and Renewal for return to school and work.

Recreation is an activity that is inherently satisfying in which the participant engages voluntarily during free time. There are many satisfactions including amusement, diversion, enjoyment, entertainment, fulfillment, pleasure, relaxation and self-expression. Recreation activities include arts, crafts, cultural activities, dance, drama, entertainment, games, hobbies, literary activities, music, nature activities, social activities, special events, sports, tourism and voluntary service.

Scouting as a Bridge for Handicapped

Scouting is a grand program. Having fun through recreation has always been a part of scouting but there are so many benefits afforded by scouting that a full reading of the Scout Handbook is necessary to do justice to the program. Rather than just preparation for living, Scouting is living. Scouting is healthful living, is education, is employment, is social participation in family and community and is recreation. Scouting prepares and places young people in the employment sense providing a vast array of pre-vocational experiences and opportunities. The participants are the Scout, the Scout's family and the Scout program--a dynamic triad.

For the young person who is handicapped, the elements of Scouting are doubly important to assure the fullest possible opportunity in health, education, social functioning, employment and recreation. Involvement in Scouting is mainstreaming as the Scout who is handicapped becomes a co-participant with millions of other Scouts across the nation and around the world.

The Dynamic Character of Scouting

Scouting is universal and ageless. Every member of the family has a part to play in Scouting and there is some form of participation for the youngest members of the family as well as the oldest.

Career education is one dimension of the Scouting program that suggests the overall strength of the entire program. Career education has always been a basic element of Scouting--young Scouts gain many career education benefits. The contemporary career education movement has advanced the state of the art of career education in terms of methodologies and instrumentation and this benefits all efforts to usher young people into adult responsibility. The Scout program continues today as a dynamic and creative response to the need of youth for career education.

Another exciting dimension of the Scouting program is the recreation education that is provided for Scouts. Without labeling it "recreation education" as such, Scouting has always provided youth with excellent preparation for participation in worthwhile and meaningful recreation. Scouting today provides young people with recreation education in terms of the formation of an appropriate philosophy about the wise use of free time and discretionary income; Scouting provides training in skills to be used for recreation pursuits; Scouting provides orientation on the resources that are available for recreation and their proper use; and, finally, Scouting helps to form proper recreation habits. These four elements - philosophy, skills, knowledge of resources and positive habits - carry over into adult life.

Career education and recreation education are only two of the many components of Scouting. But, these two elements alone suggest the universal and dynamic character of Scouting.

The Wholistic View of Scouting

Scouting has many parts but it is also a totality, a completeness. Scouting attracts and holds millions of youth, volunteers and families. In a time when values seem to bend in the slightest breeze the values espoused by Scouting are relatively unchanged. Please see the early Scouting documents and manuals such as the "Official Handbook of the Lone Scouts of America" recently reprinted by John Sullivan, a member of the BSA National Advisory Committee on Scouting for the Handicapped.

Scouting, like education, employment and recreation, is part of the mainstream of American life. Thus, participating in Scouting like participating in education, employment and recreation, is participating in the American mainstream.

What Type of Participation -- Segregated or Integrated?

What type of participation should be provided for and with the Scout who is handicapped? The finite goal is full integration, mainstreaming and normalization for every person who is handicapped, that is, living a normal life in every aspect, family, community, education, work and recreation. There is a line or continuum from absolute dependence to absolute independence and the role of Scout leader working with the Scout who is handicapped is to determine what fits the Scout best today and for tomorrow to seek every possible means of moving that Scout along the continuum towards absolute independence, in Scouting and all aspects of life.

Project MAY

An important national project has recently been organized by the Urban Action and Program Division of the National Board of YMCA's and funded by the U.S. Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. Project MAY - Mainstreaming Activities for Youth - is a three year project which will assist national youth serving agencies in planning, developing, implementing, promoting and evaluating a cooperative/coordinated training program aimed at mainstreaming handicapped youth into regular youth programs. The YMCA Project Director is Mrs. Grace Reynolds and the BEH Project Officer is Mr. William A. Hillman, Jr., who also serves as a member of the BSA National Advisory Committee for the Handicapped.

Project MAY is another milestone in the nation's history of youth service advances along with the BSA Scouting for the Handicapped program and the YMCA's Project Aquatics for Handicapped. It is gratifying to report that the following organizations are

participating in Project MAY: National 4-H Council, BSA, Camp Fire Girls, Girls Clubs of America, Future Homemakers of America, GSA, Boys Clubs of America, National Board of YMCA, National Federation of Settlements, National Jewish Welfare Board, and the National Board of YMCA. Significant progress will be made through Project MAY during the period 1979-82.

National Resource Handbook

There is a second new national handicapped youth project being conducted with funding assistance by the U.S. Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. A National Resource Handbook on Scouting for Handicapped Children is being compiled by Jack C. Dinger, Ed.D., Professor at Slippery Rock State College, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, and also a member of the BSA National Advisory Committee on Scouting for the Handicapped. This resource handbook will provide volunteers, leaders, teachers, administrators and anyone interested in Scouting for the Handicapped with an invaluable aid.

BSA As A National Model

During the period 1975-1978 I served as Project Director of the National Institute on Special Recreation. This project was funded by the U.S. Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. It provided research and study on the recreation programs for handicapped of some 100 local communities. The new knowledge that was gained in this research formed the basis for training that was provided to 3,250 personnel from 48 states at 40 training sessions given throughout the United States.

I am pleased to report to this First National Conference on Scouting for the Hearing Impaired that the Scouting for the Handicapped Program of the Boy Scouts of America was cited by the National Institute on Special Recreation as an exemplary program and papers on Scouting for Handicapped by Mr. William P. McCahill and Mr. Fred Krause were included in Papers on New Models of Community or Special Recreation for Handicapped published by the National Institute. I wish to take

this opportunity to cite for their outstanding contribution to the development of special recreation opportunity for handicapped youth Mr. William P. McCahill, chairman of the BSA National Advisory Committee on Scouting for the Handicapped, Mr. Jack Richmond, BSA Scouting for the Handicapped staff officer, and the members of the BSA National Advisory Committee on Scouting for the Handicapped. This First National Conference on Scouting for the Hearing Impaired is only one of many important advances that they have worked to see achieved.

Special Recreation, Inc.

Related to the National Institute on Special Recreation described above is the fact that a national, non profit organization dedicated to serving the recreation rights, needs and aspirations of people who are handicapped was formed in 1978. The organization was formed by a group of handicapped consumers, advocates and parents for the purpose of supporting, encouraging and promoting self determination in recreation for people who are handicapped.

This effort is one of many taking place at the national, state and local levels to advance full opportunity and full participation in recreation for people who are handicapped. (See Appendix A)

Recent Developments

It is gratifying to report to this Conference on recent developments in the recreation or special recreation dimension of equal opportunity and normalization for people who are handicapped.

--The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its Amendments of 1974 and 1978 have overtly recognized recreation resulting in the construction of a major national special recreation demonstration facility in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and in the provision for the initiation of Special Recreation Programs. This Federal legislation formally recognizes Scouting

for handicapped.

--Public Law 94-142, the Education for All Handicapped Act of 1975, has overtly recognized the benefits of recreation. Therapeutic recreation is included in the related services that can be provided if written into the Individualized Educational Plan.

--The U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service are conducting studies, establishing job positions, and carrying on planning intended to increase participation by handicapped in federal outdoor recreation programs, services and facilities.

While many of these activities are in the planning or developmental stages and funding has been withheld from major federal programs, there is a sense of optimism that the 1980's will be the decade when major advances will be made in bringing equal opportunity and normalization in recreation to the nation's 25 million people - children, youth and adults - who are handicapped.

No Person Should Ever Be Handicapped In Recreation

In rehabilitation circles, the results of illness, injury or disease are known as "disability." The fact that the disability interferes with any functioning - medical, educational, social, vocational or recreational - is called the "handicap." In special recreation it is our goal that the individual function in the recreation dimension of life to the extent that there is no handicap.

I challenge every member of the Boy Scout movement - Scouts, leaders and families to afford the opportunity to participate in Scouting to every disabled youth in America. Second, I challenge you to reduce the effect of disabling conditions through the Scout program which can provide critically needed experiences that contribute to social development, career education, recreation education, and so on. Finally, I challenge the Boy Scout movement to eliminate totally the effects of

disease and injury in recreation. Make your goal to eliminate the word "handicapped" from recreation by making recreation fully accessible to handicapped youth.

In taking the Scout Oath, the Scout pledges to keep himself physically fit, mentally awake and morally straight.

Any physical, mental or moral activity that lacks an element of recreation loses the qualities of joy and fun that create and reinforce the motivation to be physically fit, mentally awake and morally straight.

Recreation has the capacity to generate desire, interest, will, curiosity and determination.

But, any recreation that fails to contribute to physical fitness, mental growth and moral development lacks meaning and value in an era when all youth are searching desperately for meaning and value.

All youth need Scouting.

Scouting must be for All youth.

Recreation must be a part of all Scouting -- no more nor less in Scouting for youth who are inconvenienced.

Happy Scouting to All Youth.

Special Recreation, Inc.
362 Koser Avenue
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Appendix A

SPECIAL RECREATION, INC. is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to serving the recreation rights, needs and aspirations of people who are handicapped. It was incorporated in Iowa City, Iowa in 1978 by a group of handicapped consumers, advocates and parents.

The purposes of SPECIAL RECREATION, INC. are to support, encourage and promote self-determination in recreation for people who are handicapped, to promote a national philosophy in support of special recreation, to assist in the formation of local and state groups in and for special recreation, to assist organizations in the development of special recreation programs, to conduct research and training in special recreation and to carry on other related activities that serve to advance special recreation for people who are handicapped.

SPECIAL

S is for Special People
P is for Pride in Achievement through Recreation
E is for Equal Opportunity in Recreation for Handicapped
C is for Consumerism for Handicapped in Recreation
I is for Independence for Handicapped in Recreation
A is for Access to Recreation for Handicapped
L is for Laws and Legislation for Recreation for Handicapped

RECREATION

R is for Recreation's Mediums and Rewards
E is for Employment of Handicapped in Recreation
C is for Community Support for Recreation for Handicapped
R is for Rehabilitative Benefits from Recreation
E is for Education for Recreation Fulfillment
A is for Assistance for Local Programs for Special Recreation
T is for Transportation for Recreation for Handicapped
I is for Inter-Agency Cooperation for Special Recreation
O is for Outdoor Recreation for Handicapped
N is for National Agencies Support for Special Recreation

SPECIAL RECREATION, INC. encourages local special recreation advocates to fortify thehandicapped person's conviction and motivation to achieve recreation fulfillment, to serve as volunteers in recreation programs and activities, to encourage community goodwill and support for special recreation and to promote full access to recreation opportunity by working to remove architectural barriers, transportation barriers, program and service barriers, and attitudinal barriers.

For information on activities and materials write, SPECIAL RECREATION, INC., 362 Koser Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. Allow six weeks for response.

Contributions to Special Recreation, Inc. are tax deductible.

Recent Publications on Special Recreation for Handicapped

Compiled by John A. Nesbitt

Bane, David C., Larry S. Ford and Shirley Lehew.
Wait No Longer
Report of the First National Conference on Special Recreation for Handicapped.
Wood County, West Virginia, Wood County Park and Recreation Commission, 1979. 66 pp.
and appendices. Available from IRUC, American Association for Health, Physical Education and Dance, 1201 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Fay, Frederick A., and Janet Minch.
Access to Recreation
A Report on the National Hearing on Recreation for Handicapped Persons.
Washington, D.C., Available from the Office of Human Development, Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. No. date. 66 pp.

National Center for Law and the Handicapped.
"Reaching for New Heights in Recreation for Handicapped People"
Special Issue of Amicus, Vol. 3, No. 3, May-June 1978. Available from the National Center for Law and the Handicapped, Inc., 1235 North Eddy Street, South Bend, Indiana.

National Park Service.
"Trends in Serving Handicapped People"
Trends, Spring, Volume 15, Number 2, 1978. 48 pp. Available from the National Recreation and Park Association, 1601 North Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia.

Nesbitt, John A., et. al.
#1 New Concepts and New Processes in Special Recreation. 156 pp.
#2 Model Special Recreation Services. 463 pp.
#3 Papers on New Models of Community or Special Recreation for Handicapped. 354 pp.
#4 Federal Funding for Special Recreation. 86 pp.
#5 Leisure Fulfillment for Handicapped and the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. 26 pp.
#6 Educating the Handicapped Child for Leisure Fulfillment. 133 pp.
#7 Special Recreation in Rural Areas. 188 pp.
#8 Newsletters of the National Institute. 200 pp.
#9 Information Sources on Special Recreation. 177 pp.
Available from the ERIC Document Reproduction Service, P.O. Box 190, Arlington, Virginia, 22210

Nesbitt, John A.
"The 1980s: Recreation A Reality for All".
Education Unlimited.
Vol. 1, Number 2, June 1979. p. 12-19.
Available from the Educational Resources Center, 1834 Meetinghouse Road, Boothwyn, Pennsylvania 19061.

Office of Handicapped Individuals.
Recreation and Leisure for Handicapped Individuals: Resource Guide on Information Resources, Funding Guide and Publications Available from Federal Sources.
Available from the Office of Handicapped Individuals, Office of Human Development, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, April 1979, 94 pp. DHEW Publication No. (OHDS) 79-22004.